

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/362,022 ✓

Examiner

Scott A. Rogers

Applicant(s)

MEYER ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendments and discussions on 12 Oct. 2005 & 20 Dec. 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


SCOTT ROGERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher D. Wait on 20 December 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1:

On line 1, after "improved halftone", inserted ---cell data structure stored in a memory---

On line 7, after "halftone cell", inserted ---by better controlling toner cloud development in the electrostatographic system---

In claims 2-8:

On line 1 of each claim, after "improved halftone", inserted ---cell data structure stored in memory---

In claim 9:

On line 6, after "halo problems", inserted ---by better controlling toner cloud development---

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Referring to claims 1-8, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests in the claimed combinations, a halftone cell where at least one black auxiliary pixel placed around and exterior to the "on" pixels of the halftone cell to improve edge displacement or halo problems in the printing of the halftone cell by better controlling toner cloud development in the electrostatographic system.

Referring to claims 9-12, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests in the claimed combinations, a halftone cell comprising embedded black auxiliary pixels spaced at least one pixel outside the "on" pixels contained therein to improve edge displacement or halo problems by better controlling toner cloud development in the printing of the image.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Remarks

In a telephone interview on 20 December 2005, the examiner and applicant's attorney discussed claims 1 and 9 with regard to the response filed 12 October 2005 and agreed to the amendments made above with respect to "controlling toner cloud development" in order to distinguish over the prior art. Further, the additional

amendment to the preamble of claim 1 was agreed to in order to place the claim in a proper statutory category of invention. Claim 1 now meets the statutory requirements of 35 USC 101 as the claim is now directed to a tangible product (i.e., "halftone cell data structure stored in a memory"), and furthermore, provides function to an electrostatographic system as is clear from the disclosure and now embodied in the claim, and produces a tangible and useful result (i.e., "improving edge displacement or halo problems in the printing of the halftone cell by better controlling toner cloud development in the electrostatographic system).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott A Rogers whose telephone number is 571-272-7467. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday 6:00am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached at 571-272-7471.

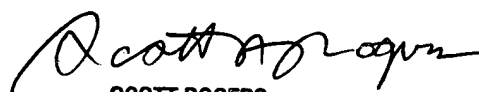
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to TC2600 Customer Service at 571-272-2600. Official correspondence by facsimile should be sent to 571-273-8300. The USPTO contact Center phone numbers are 800-PTO-9199.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

20 December 2005


SCOTT ROGERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER